

Message Text

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61

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 SY-04 FBIE-00 DODE-00

EB-07 PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O 292328Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5397

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 6991

E.O. 11659: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJ: TIKAL CRASH

REF: GUATEMALA 6990

1. BODIES ARRIVED IN GUATEMALA CITY CIRCA 1500 HRS DEC 29. MEDICAL REPORT STATES THIRTEEN UNIDENTIFIABLE BY SEX. FIVE IDENTIFIED AS MALE, THREE AS FEMALES AGED APPROXIMATELY 35, 40 AND 50. GUATEMALAN CREW IDENTIFIED EVIDENTLY BY POSITION IN AIRCRAFT. INDIVIDUAL DEATH CERTIFICATES BEING ISSUED BY CIVIL AUTHORITIES IN DEPARTMENT OF PETEN AND SHOULD BE AVAILABLE DEC 30 IN GUATEMALA CITY.

2. THOUGHT HAS OCCURRED US HERE IF IT WOULD NOT BE MORE PRACTICAL AND EXPEDITIOUS TO SHIP BODIES TO NEW YORK AND HAVE FORENIC IDENTIFICATION CONDUCTED THERE WHERE MEDICAL AND DENTAL RECORDS WOULD BE READILY AVAILABLE. REQUEST DEPT'S GUIDANCE AND COMMENTS ON THIS PROPOSAL.

3. ONE COUPLE, GAIL AND PEGGY BURGETT, FROM COLUMBUS AND AN UNCLE MR PHELPS WAS TRAVELLING WITH THE BURGETTS. HE HAS NO OBJECTION TO BODIES BEING SENT FIRST TO NEW YORK.

4. HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT SERVITOR (THE SALVARIDOREAN TOUR COMPANY) AFTER TELLING FUNERAL HOME THAT HANNOVER INSURANCE OF EL SALVADOR WOULD COVER PREPARATION OF BODIES AND SHIPMENT TO UNITED STATES NOW CLAIMS THAT THEIR COMPANY WILL NOT ASSUME ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THESE COSTS. FUNERAL HOME REFORMA HAS GIVEN FOLLOWING

ESTIMATE FOR PREPARATION AND SHIPMENT: COFFIN \$300, ZINC LINING
\$100, EMBALMING \$200, SHIPMENT TO NEW YORK \$750. TOTAL \$1350
APIECE. AS BODIES WILL BE DETERIORATING RAPIDLY CAN DEPT
AUTHORIZE EMBASSY TO HAVE EMBALMING DONE AT ONCE AND COLLECT FROM
FAMILIES LATER? OTHERWISE EVENTUAL IDENTIFICATION WILL BE ALMOST
IMPOSSIBLE. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S REPLY TO LAST POINT ASAP.
ANDREWS

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